



**NINE MILE FALLS SCHOOL DISTRICT 325/179**

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Jeff Baerwald, Superintendent

**Board of Directors**

Greg Flemming  
Bill McBride  
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Eric Olsen  
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February 9, 2022

Governor Jay Inslee  
Office of the Governor  
PO Box 40002  
Olympia, WA 98504-0002

Governor Inslee,

On Tuesday, February 8, 2022, Washington State Superintendent Chris Reykdal publicly announced that he supports making masks optional in our public schools. As the locally elected school board for the Nine Mile Falls School District, we fully support Mr. Reykdal’s stance on removing the masking mandate in our schools and giving the choice to mask to the families and students we represent.

For the past two years our students and their families have had to navigate a challenging educational and public health system that have become more interconnected than ever before. As locally elected officials, it is long past time that we return our energy to serving the educational goals of our district and community in a manner that is aligned with needs of the constituents we serve.

Governor Inslee, it is time to rescind your mandates and return the control of our public school back to us, the locally elected school board members. It is time to reignite the flame of hope to our Nine Mile Falls students and families. It is time to allow local school districts to work with their local health jurisdictions to establish the safety precautions needed to keep students and staff in schools.

It is time to remove masks.

Greg Flemming/Board Chair

Eric Olsen

Kyle Yancey/Vice Chair

Bill McBride

Mac Mikkelsen

Jeff Baerwald/Superintendent